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IDEA 0862-69

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12 November 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Trip Report on Visit to Norfolk NAS, Virginia and Wallops Station NASA, Virginia, 7 November 1969

1. Personnel contacted:

USS America, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Captain Richard E. Rumble, Captain, USS America
Captain Robert S. Chew, Executive Officer, USS America

Lt. Commander Cyril G. Dearie, Special Security Officer, USS America

Wallops Station (NASA), Virginia

Mr. Robert L. Krieger, Station Director

Mr. Joseph E. Robbins, Administrative/Management Officer

Mr. Robert Duffey, Chief, Aeronautical Programs Branch

2. Resume of actions/business completed:

25X1A

a. Upon arrival at Norfolk NAS, the Survey Team was met by Lt. Vernon Dubois, BCO, and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Lt. Dubois escorted the team and [REDACTED] to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. We went aboard the carrier USS America and were escorted to Captain Rumble's cabin. After a brief introduction, Captain Rumble, Captain Chew and Lt. Commander Dearie were given an IDEALIST briefing.

b. A brief history of the IDEALIST [REDACTED] Operation for the past several years was presented and then an outline of the requirements of [REDACTED] All the [REDACTED] 25X1A

GROUP 1

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officers were very courteous and receptive. They were eager to assist in accomplishing our objectives and requirements. However, they emphasized that the more flexible our program the easier it would be to accomplish. I reviewed our outline and assured them that we would do everything possible to fit into their schedule. Captain Rumble stated that he hoped the carrier USS America would set sail on 17 November; however, it is possible that delivery of essential equipment may delay departure until 21 November.

c.. Since the carrier has not been to sea for approximately one year, the sea trials consist of many tests such as engine and speed runs, many radar tests, weapons tests, some classified tests, etc. Captain Rumble stated that he had not yet established a schedule for these 25X1A tests, and he indicated that he prefers to remain very flexible. This would actually accommodate our operation. Captain Rumble stated he would like to commence the [REDACTED] Exercise as soon as the carrier is at sea and the U-2 is in position.

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d. COD (C-1 or HC 46) will be available for transportation to and from shore as required. Also a COD is scheduled daily while the America is at sea. Captain Rumble stated additional COD flights can be scheduled if necessary. I asked if we could be given the cost of operation of the COD so that the Navy could be reimbursed. Captain Rumble stated that the COD cost was too insignificant to be concerned with. Then he suggested that possibly the COD could be refueled at our expense at the "Bingo" field.

e. The prepositioning of a 5000 gallon tank of JPTS fuel on the carrier seemed to be the most difficult to arrange. Captain Rumble feels that we should provide the refueling truck to be placed on board the carrier.

f. The positioning of equipment and the necessary personnel aboard the carrier will take place at Norfolk NAS on 14 November. The amount of equipment and number of personnel will not create any problems as there is

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ample space and quarters during the sea trials. This equipment can also be loaded and off loaded on any day of the week (including weekends).

g. The carrier is scheduled to anchor in the harbor on 28 November. Our equipment and personnel can be off loaded onto a barge and returned to Norfolk at that time.

h. After completion of the conference, Commander Flanigan and I stopped to brief Captain Mayo of our progress. Captain Mayo emphasized the enormous cost and effort by the Navy to qualify the U-2 and he was pleased with the progress made in such a short and satisfactory manner.

Wallops Station NASA, Virginia

a. The Team arrived at Wallops Station NASA at 1715L, after a two hour delay for air transportation. [REDACTED] and I made the initial contact with the above named individuals. After the initial contact revealed the feasibility of using Wallops Station, the Team was given a very brief tour of the facilities. This tour revealed the following:

(1) Support equipment is very limited. Staff cars, trucks and support vehicles will probably be obtained through a rental agency outside the main gate.

(2) Billeting appears to be ample on the station. Meals can be obtained on the station and some special arrangements may be required to accommodate our personnel.

(3) We were unable to determine if office space would be available within the hangar.

(4) Runway and taxi facilities are adequate for our operation. The station is remotely located and after 20 November, most of their activities will be terminated, or at a rather low level of operation.

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3. Action: We agreed to have a precarrier qualification conference aboard the USS America on 13 November when final details will be worked out for the [REDACTED] exercise. 25X1A Captain Rumble suggested that we be prepared to commence our aircraft qualifications by 21 November 1969.

4. Recommendations:

a. It is recommended that this Headquarters continue to program U-2R aircraft/pilot qualification aboard the aircraft carrier USS America during the time period of 21 through 26 November.

b. All equipment and accompanying personnel required to be placed aboard the carrier be available at Norfolk NAS on 14 November.

c. U-2R aircraft and additional personnel and support equipment arrive at Wallops Station NASA by 20 November to be prepared to commence qualifications by 21 November.

d. A precarrier qualification conference be held with Project Headquarters personnel, [REDACTED] representatives and Lockheed representatives aboard the USS America on 13 November. This same team should also proceed to Wallops Station to accomplish a base survey after completion of precarrier conference.

e. Project Headquarters will establish the limitations for aircraft/pilot qualifications aboard the 25X1A carrier when a foreign trawler is in the area.

[REDACTED]
Lt. Colonel, USAF
IDEALIST Division, OSA

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